

1. Mr Muston B.415
2. ~~Mr Morley Parry~~ A.421
3. ~~Mr Perry~~ A.405

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1969



Medical Officer of Health: ESTHER JACKSON, M.B. , CH.B. , D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F.E. CASEMORE, A.I.A.S. , M.R.S.H. , M.A.P.H.I.

County Clinic,
Green Close,
Sturminster Newton,
Dorset.

July 1970.

To: The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1969.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Dr. Noel F. Pearson was your Medical Officer of Health until the 20th November, 1969, so this is largely his Report. Mr. Casemore, your Chief Public Health Inspector, has, as usual, prepared the section of the Report dealing with that part of the work with which the Public Health Inspector is primarily concerned.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ESTHER JACKSON

Medical Officer of Health

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1969

A. Area 42,000 acres

Rateable value: 1st April, 1969 £307,020

Product of a penny rate: 1969/70..... £1,250 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1969 as supplied by the Registrar General.

Population: (Registrar General's mid year estimate) ... 10,390

BIRTHS registered

	<u>1969</u>			<u>1968</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births - total	85	55	140	146
legitimate	80	54	134	136
illegitimate	5	1	6	10
Still births - total	2	0	2	2
legitimate	1	0	1	2
illegitimate	1	0	1	0

	<u>1969</u>			<u>1968</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS registered				
Total	69	52	121	119
Maternal deaths	-	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 1 yr: Total	3	1	4	1
Legitimate	3	1	4	0
Under 4 wks of age: total	3	1	4	0
Under 1 week of age: total	3	1	4	0

The succeeding table of figures shews the birth rates etc. for the Shaftesbury Rural area and the rates for England & Wales for comparison.

	<u>Shaftesbury Area</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 est. population	13.5	16.3
Area comparability factor	1.15	1.00
Local adjusted rate	15.5	16.3
Illegitimate live births as %age of all live births	4	8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	14	13
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	29	18
I.M.R of legitimate infants	30	17
I.M.R. of illegitimate infants		25
Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live born)	29	12
Early neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live born)	29	10
Perinatal mortality rate (still births & deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	42	23
Deaths per 1,000 population	11.6	11.9
Area comparability factor	0.83	1.00
Local adjusted death rate	9.6	11.9

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR

	<u>1969</u>			<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Tuberculosis - all forms	0	0	0	0	1
Other infective illnesses	0	0	0		
Malignant neoplasm					
Lung and bronchus	7	2	9	5	4
Breast	-	2	2)		
Uterus	-	1	1)		
Prostate	0	-	0)	20	8
Stomach and intestines	2	2	4)		
Leukaemia.....	0	0	0)		
Other sites	3	4	7)		
Diabetes mellitus					
Other endocrine etc. diseases	0	0	0		
Ischaemic heart disease	21	10	31	27	21
Other diseases of the nervous system					
Cerebrovascular disease	9	12	21)	35	44
Other heart & circulatory system diseases	11	9	20)		
Influenza	2	1	3	2	0
Pneumonia	2	3	5	2	8
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	1	4		
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	1		
Ulcer and diseases of digestive system	0	1	1		
Other diseases of liver and intestines	0	0	0		
Diseases of kidneys & genito-urinary system	2	0	2		
Congenital anomalies & other causes of perinatal mortality	4	1	5		
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	0	0	0		
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2	1	1
All other accidents	0	1	1	3	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ..	1	1	2	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Other than Tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	18
Typhoid fever	1
Leptospirosis	1
Acute viral encephalitis	1

Tuberculosis: no cases notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of food poisoning reported in the Shaftesbury Rural District during 1969.

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham.

The principal industries of the area are agricultural with associated activities, which include two bacon factories, one slaughterhouse, a cheese factory and a milk processing factory. In addition, there are factories dealing in synthetic glue, chemicals, instrument engineering, soft toys and glove making.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT, which are provided by the Regional Hospital Board, the County Council, etc.

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

From the northern part of the district patients attend the Westminster Memorial Hospital and the Salisbury Hospitals in the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. From the more southern part of the district patients attend the Blandford Hospital and the Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district: the Service has again proved, in every way, to be cooperative, helpful and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventative health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, immunization and vaccination, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic home help service and the welfare of the aged.

DOMESTIC HOME HELP SERVICE

Particular mention must be made regarding the domestic home help service which is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted. But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgment must be made of the excellent work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society with regard to the welfare of aged persons, the handicapped and disabled and the chiropody service for old people. A meals on wheels service for old people is provided by the WRVS. At the end of the year 21 persons had availed themselves of this service in the district, compared with 19 in the previous year.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Part time) D.P.H., until 20th November, 1969.

Esther Jackson, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
from 20th November, 1969.

Your Medical Officer of Health also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and, as Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, to the Dorset County Council.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR - F.E. Casemore, A.I.A.S
(Part time) M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - M.F. Capon, M.A.P.H.I.
(Full time)

ADDITIONAL SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - B.R. Marchant,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.

Since March 1969, Mr. B.R. Marchant has been seconded to the Council's Consulting Engineers in connection with the main drainage improvement scheme at Iwerne Minster. Due to the scheme taking longer than originally estimated and the contractor failing to complete within the original contract period, Mr. Marchant has been unable to return to his normal duties at a time when other staff were otherwise fully committed. In view of the extended period of the contract, a temporary reduction in the efficiency of the normal services is inevitable.

AUTHORISED MEAT INSPECTORS - R. A. Leach, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.M;
(Full time meat inspection D. Sharpe, M.A.M.I;
duties) R. A. Watson, M.A.M.I;
A. Rockett, M.A.M.I.

CLERICAL STAFF - two clerks, part-time.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The statutory undertaking in the district is the West Wilts Water Board. There has been close cooperation between the Board's Officers and your Public Health Officers. The Board has taken 394 samples during the year, and 4 were taken by your Public Health Officers. 85 of these samples showed varying degrees of contamination with non-faecal organisms and 23 of those samples were also contaminated with faecal organisms. Practically all the unsatisfactory samples were from springs prior to chlorination.

Private Supplies

	<u>Samples</u>	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
1. Fontmell Magna	10	21
2. Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster	3	9
3. Oake Woods Bacon Factory, Gillingham	2	1

Fontmell Magna's private supply affects 17 domestic properties and one public standpipe. Users of this supply were advised to boil water used for drinking and the supply owners were asked to pay careful attention to chlorination. The supply is in process of being discontinued since connections to the mains supply are being provided.

At Clayesmore, the supply owners were advised to pay careful attention to chlorination, as were the supply owners at Oake Woods Bacon Factory, Gillingham.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Preparatory work has continued in respect of schemes for Motcombe and Fontmell Magna. Main drainage improvements scheme for Iwerne Minster was commenced in March 1969 and completion is due by August 1970. A main drainage scheme for Bourton (previously unsewered) commenced in October 1969 and completion is due by March 1971.

Drainage nuisances have continued at Milton on Stour and Kington Magna and there have been intermittent nuisances at East Stour.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council operate a service under Section 74 of the Public Health Act 1936 to assist with emptying of cesspools for occupiers of residential properties situated in the non-sewered parts of the district. During the year, the contents of 470 cesspools or septic tanks were removed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse and salvage

A weekly collection operates for Gillingham and a fortnightly collection for the remainder of the district.

112 tons 16 cwts. 3 qrs. of salvage was sold, realising an income of £617. 10. 9d.

Road sweeping

The Council employ one man to sweep roads in Gillingham (lighting area) to supplement the limited mechanical sweeping of principal roads by the County Council.

Roadside Sanitation

Litter receptacles are provided by the County Council in approved laybys and litter is collected by the District Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

The pollution of a stream at Kington Magna (previously reported) has been reduced during the year following the service of statutory notice on the owner of business premises who took appropriate steps to stop the pollution.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

One Inspector is appointed under the Act, and 74 premises are registered under the Act. 38 premises were inspected and 56 inspections were carried out during the year.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was required or taken under this Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises Inspections Written Notices on Register</u>		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	3	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	5	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	42	6	1

Found Remedied Referred by H.M. Inspector

No. of outworkers (Wearing Apparel)	69
---	----

No premises in your district are registered under the Act.

There are 3 premises in your district registered under this Act; 3 inspections were carried out during the year.

There is one public swimming bath, at Gillingham. Sampling was undertaken by the County Council.

There are 9 licensed sites in the area, one being permanent with 3 caravans, another being seasonal with 15 caravans and there are 7 temporary individual sites. 4 inspections were carried out during the year.

A few complaints have been received in respect of fly and flea infestation: D.D.T. spray and powder was used.

One public convenience, situated at High Street, Gillingham, is provided with handwashing facilities (cold water only) for both males and females.

As a result of routine inspections and complaints, treatments were carried out (via the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee) as follows:

Notification was received of one case of Leptospirosis Jaundice. The occupier was advised as to proper method of treatment of the premises.

There is one licensed premises in the district under the Act and two inspections were carried out.

Routine inspections were carried out. At one private school it was necessary to serve informal notice requiring re-decoration etc. of rooms used for storage and preparation of food.

No action was required or taken during the year.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district 3,718

Inspection of dwellings during the year:

Number of dwelling houses inspected during the year	131
" " inspections made	203
" " informal notices served	27
" " " " complied with	22
" " statutory " served	10
" " " " complied with	5
" " houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	2

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made	1
Undertakings accepted for:	
Closure	1
Reconditioning	nil
Other action	nil
Number of Houses included in Clearance Areas during year	nil

No action was taken under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1964, to ascertain which houses should be made the subject of Compulsory Improvement Orders.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

	<u>1969</u>		<u>1968</u>	
	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>
No. of applications received during the year	18	11	26	3

There are no applications pending.

With new increased limits and the abolition of a requirement for full or part payment of grant if the property was sold within a specified period, it is anticipated that the number of applications for grant will shew an appreciable increase.

New Houses

No new houses were provided by the Council during the year; 47 were provided by private enterprise.

27 families were re-housed by the Council during the year, compared with 37 in the previous year.

There were 150 persons resident within the district and 60 without the district on the housing list, compared with 150 and 68 respectively in the preceding year.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received under this Act during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Number of dairies in the district subject to registration 6
Number of distributors subject to registration 7

Samples

To avoid duplication of effort, routine milk sampling in the district is only undertaken by the County Council, the results being notified to the Public Health Department. Only one sample of pasteurised milk did not pass the test.

Brucellosis

30 samples of raw milk were examined by the County Council and 3 were found to be positive.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Reg. 19-20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of Food Premises in the area, by type of business subject to Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

<u>Trade</u>	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg. 19
Hotels	4	4	4	4
Cafes	6	6	6	6
Public Houses	16	16	16	16
Clubs	5	5	5	5
Church Halls	5	5	5	5
Canteens - schools	6	4	4	4
Confectioners.....	13	13	11	11
Meat and Fish	9	9	9	9
Grocers	4	4	4	4
Mixed stores	36	32	36	34
Boarding schools	3	3	3	3
Food Factories	14	14	14	14
Others	11	11	11	11

The character of many "grocers" shops has changed over the years and most have become multi-purpose. A re-appraisal of the position has resulted in an increase in premises designated "mixed stores" with a corresponding decrease in those designated as "grocers".

Number of such premises inspected during the year 104
Number of inspections carried out 154

Number of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream 46
Sausages and Prepared Meats 11
Fish and Chips 2

No samples of ice cream were submitted for Methylene Blue Test.

Condemned food is disposed of by incineration at the salvage depot, Gillingham.

POULTRY INSPECTION

No. of poultry processing premises within the district nil

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

No. of licensed slaughterhouses in the district 3

No. of licensed knackers yards in the district nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Weight of condemned food:

Slaughterhouses - carcass meat 75 tons.4cwts.2qrs.
Offal 48 tons.4cwts.

Butchers' shops - rump steak 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Other shops - poultry 65lbs
corned beef 26lbs
veal escalops 6lbs
tinned grapefruit 11lbs
tinned grapefruit juice 2lbs
ice cream, mousse, etc. 80lbs

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total no. of inspections carried out (under all headings) ... 1,094
" " " informal notices served 126
" " " " " complied with 93
" " " statutory " served 13
" " " " " complied with 9
" " " prosecutions nil

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned during 1969

	Cattle ex.Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	154	2,106	3,570	1,893	117,286
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	119	175	95	621
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	1,560	92	344	18,575
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	27.9	79.7	7.5	23.2	16.3
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	----	----	---	----	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	----	----	---	----	3,897
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	----	----	---	----	3.3
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	----	8	---	1	---
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-----	1	---	---	----
Generalised and totally condemned	-----	---	----	----	----

Early in the year it became apparent that one meat inspector employed at Case & Sons Ltd., Motcombe, could not deal with an increased slaughtering throughput at the factory. The Council considered the position but felt that the cost to the district for an additional meat inspector was unreasonable, bearing in mind that 96% of the total throughput for the district was "export" meat.

Representation was made through the Member of Parliament to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and a meeting took place on the 15th December 1969 with the Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary who assured the Council's representatives that he would review the position regarding meat inspection charges.

